

Primorje-Gorski Kotar County, HR - Green Energy in My Home

Time period: 2010-2013

Application: Renewable Energy

Theme of collaboration: Financial Mechanism

Topic: Financial Support Programme

Description

The Regional Energy Agency of Kvarner (REA Kvarner Ltd) was established in 2009 by the County of Primorje-Gorski Kotar, with the support of the European Commission's Intelligent Energy Europe programme. The main objective and role of the Energy Agency is to promote and encourage sustainable regional energy use, development, and management.

"Green Energy in My Home" is one of the projects led by the Agency, where households receive a subsidy to co-finance the installation of heating systems which use renewable energy sources. The beneficiary households are chosen through a public call for subsidies to which households apply by submitting required documentation. A key part of this documentation is a questionnaire about the building, its joineries, windows, methods of heating and hot water preparation. The submitted questionnaires are evaluated and a priority list of beneficiary households is then generated. The subsidy is handed out only once it has been proven by the site visit that the renewable energy heating system has effectively been installed.

Participation is open to households residing in those cities and municipalities of the Primorje-Gorski Kotar County that accept to take part in, but also to co-finance the project.

Context / Background

The project started in 2010 under the name "Sun on Your Roof", and continued until 2013 under the new name of "Green Energy in My Home" since it enlarged its scope from only solar thermal collectors to include heating and hot water systems running on biomass. The Regional Energy Agency Kvarner published three separate calls for proposals – in 2010, 2011 and 2012.

Calls for households wishing to install a solar collector system for heating or a biomass boiler for hot water were published on the Agency's website and in the daily newspapers.

Subsidies to Households

The number of available subsidies has increased over the years, due to the growing interest from municipalities to take part in the project, but also due to the financial support from the Croatian Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency Fund (FZOEU).

Budget range

< € 100,000
€ 100,000 – € 1,000,000
€ 1,000,000 – € 10,000,000
€ 10,000,000 – € 100,000,000
> € 100,000,000
N/A

Key Results

In 2010: 137 applications received, of which 70 declared eligible to receive a subsidy, after evaluation.

In 2011: 96 applications received, 79 selected for funding.

In 2012: 203 applications received, 112 selected in the first round, but with the additional funding received from the FZOEU, the number of awarded subsidies reached 182.



Partners Involved – Governance

The funding to pay the subsidies is provided by the County, the cities and municipalities involved and the Croatian Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency Fund which is an extra-budgetary fund founded by the National Government secured by collecting fees from parties subject to the 'polluter pays principle'. The project implementation (preparing and following up on the call for subsidies) is carried out by the County's Energy Agency (REA Kvarner).

Financing & Costs

Co-funding from a national Fund, the County, and the municipality involved (up to 40 % of the equipment and installation costs, but not exceeding 8,000 HRK / 1,050 EUR) is enabling households to switch to renewable heating and hot water energy sources, which in turn is bringing business to local SMEs.

Results Achieved

More than 300 households have been subsidized at County level in the period from 2010 until 2013, resulting with the significant number of renewable energy systems being installed across the county. Having seen the success of this project, the goal on the County level is to repeat the initiative yearly, according to budget possibilities, and to increase the number of RES installations progressively.

Lessons Learned & Success Factors:

Given the interest shown by households in receiving energy-related subsidies, **a bigger budget is required to meet the growing demand**. Thus, in 2014, in order to secure a maximum number of subsidies to citizens of Primorje - Gorski Kotar County, with the help of the Regional Energy Agency of Kvarner (REA Kvarner), municipalities applied directly for FZOEU funding, and were granted more than € 900,000 for renewable energy systems installations (solar collectors, biomass boilers, heat pumps) and more than € 1,400,000 for energy efficiency improvements.

This high level of FZOEU funding, together with funding from their own resources, enables municipalities to award a significant number of subsidies to households which meet all the criteria and pass the strict evaluation process. With the support of the County officials, REA Kvarner remains involved in this project as technical support to municipalities.



Similar Initiatives – Transferability

- Best Practice: "Insulate Hampshire", Hampshire County – UK

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